

about their sexuality, about marriage, about healthy relationships with women and respect for others. Rapists, for example, it has been found, are 15 times more likely to have had exposure to hard-core pornography during childhood.

So what exactly has the Department of Justice done in response to this epidemic, this cancer, in our culture? Prosecutions of obscenity have dropped over 75 percent since 1992, this at a time when pornography has become ubiquitous in our culture today, giving a false sense of legitimacy to the pornography industry. In fact, there have been porn industry people that have actually gone with public offerings now on the stock exchanges. The Department of Justice has turned a blind eye to this cancer, allowing America's children to be bombarded with obscenity.

In a Committee on Commerce subcommittee hearing in May of this year, the Department of Justice said that the prosecution of obscenity has not been a priority for them. In fact, it was suggested that if we gave them \$50 million more, that they still would refuse to prosecute obscenity. So money is not the issue. It is the fact that this is not a priority. They stated that in the subcommittee hearing that I participated in and actually called for.

Furthermore, they could not name a single major distributor or producer of obscenity, although most Americans access these sites accidentally by searching through innocent key words on the Internet. This at a time when we would like to sit here in Congress and say well, you know, the real producers and purveyors of pornography, they are not from this country. But that is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I would tell you that the facts are that America is the leading producer and promoter of pornography in the world today, in the world. We are leading in producing material that is degrading towards women, and yet the DOJ was unaware of even one major producer.

But what does the adult industry say about the Department of Justice's turning a blind eye? Here is what Adult Video News said, a trade magazine for the porn industry. They reported in 1996, "There have been fewer Federal prosecutions of the adult industry under Clinton than under Reagan and Bush. With no reason to change his hands-nearly-off porn policy, vote for Mr. Clinton."

In March 1998, following just six obscenity prosecutions in 1997 by all 93 U.S. Attorneys, the same magazine announced, "It's a great time to be an adult retailer."

In March of this year, the Adult Entertainment Monthly, another publication for the porn industry, mused over how unlikely it is that the adult entertainment industry will enjoy the same "benevolent neglect" under the next

administration that the industry has enjoyed under Janet Reno.

Lieutenant Ken Seibert of the Los Angeles Administrative Vice Unit, quoted in the Los Angeles Daily News, stated, "Adult obscenity enforcement by the Federal Government is practically nonexistent since the administration changed in 1992."

Porn video distributor David Schlesinger told TV Guide in 1998, "President Clinton is a total supporter of the porn industry, and he's always been on our team."

These are not my quotes, these are not Republican quotes, these are the quotes from the porn industry itself. Just today a porn industry legal analyst stated, "On the Federal side the industry has not seen a Federal prosecution in years." That is what the porn industry legal analyst said.

H.R. 4710 is important. It is an important first step towards prodding the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section to prosecute obscenity and also holding them accountable to do so. H.R. 4710 authorizes \$5 million in funding for the Child Exploitation and Obscenities Section of the Department of Justice for the prosecution of obscenity exclusively.

Obscenity is illegal under Federal law. Obscenity has been defined by the Supreme Court. Obscenity is not protected by the first amendment, and the vast majority of Americans believe obscenity laws should be vigorously enforced.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4710, which is a vote to prosecute obscenity, to uphold the law, and to protect our children from illegal pornography.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4710.

The question was taken.

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 2230

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF UNITED MEXICAN STATES ON SUCCESS OF DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS HELD ON JULY 2, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 544) congratulating the people of the United Mexican States on the success of their democratic elections held on July 2, 2000.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 544

Whereas the United States and Mexico have a long history of close relations and share a wide range of interests;

Whereas the people of the United States and the people of Mexico have extensive cultural and historical ties that bind together families and communities across national boundaries;

Whereas a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous Mexico is of vital importance to the security of the United States;

Whereas a close relationship between the United States and Mexico, based on mutual respect and understanding, is important to the people of both nations;

Whereas Mexican leaders from across the political spectrum and representatives of civil society recognized the need for political and electoral reform and took important steps to achieve these goals;

Whereas on July 2, 2000, nearly two-thirds of all eligible voters in Mexico participated in the national election;

Whereas both domestic and international election observers declared the July 2nd elections to be the fairest and most transparent in Mexico's history;

Whereas the election of Vincente Fox marks the first transition in power at the presidential level in 71 years from the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), completing Mexico's transition to a total multi-party democratic system;

Whereas Vincente Fox, the winning presidential candidate, and Ernesto Zedillo, the current president, have both pledged themselves to a peaceful and cooperative transition of power; and

Whereas this transparent, fair and democratic election should be broadly commended; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the people and Government of the United Mexican States for the successful completion of the democratic multiparty elections for president and the legislature;

(2) commends all the citizens and political parties of Mexico for their participation in the democratic process and their strong support for the strengthening of their democracy;

(3) congratulates President-elect Vincente Fox for his election victory and his strong commitment to democracy and a free-market oriented economy; and

(4) reaffirms the United States friendship with the United Mexican States and our unequivocal commitment to encouraging democracy throughout Latin America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 544.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.Res. 544, which this Member, along with the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) and 26 of our colleagues, introduced to commend the government and people of Mexico on their recent national elections.

While Mexico, in fact, practiced democratic governments for the past several decades, the outcome of the July 2 presidential election ending 71 years of dominance in the office of the presidency by the PRI party represents the most dramatic and historic change in leadership in modern Mexican history.

In addition, this legislation was deemed by both domestic and international electoral monitors as the freest, fairest, and most transparent election in Mexican history; and the broad participation of nearly two-thirds of Mexico's eligible citizenry further evidences the noteworthy success of the election.

Mr. Speaker, aside from this broad recognition of success of the recent election, I want to address one important aspect of this election. I believe it is important to recognize Mexico's current President Ernesto Zedillo for his critical role in initiating reforms which assured the transparent and democratic process witnessed in the recent election.

Two years ago, Mexican leaders from across the political spectrum, led by President Zedillo and representatives of the civil society, recognized the need for political and electoral reform and took important steps to achieve these laudable goals.

One of the reforms he initiated was the establishment of the Independent Federal Electoral Institute, which was to oversee the electoral process, thereby insulating the electoral administration from political influence.

In addition, President Zedillo was instrumental in instituting a primary selection process for future presidential candidates within his own PRI party which has ruled Mexico since 1929. This primary process was a major accomplishment which helped to democratize the party itself.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we should also recognize the diligent work of the National Action Party, or PAN, as well as the former political talent of President-elect Vicente Fox, which were also key factors in the July 2 electoral process.

This vote for H.Res. 544 not only recognizes Mexico's successful election and congratulates President-elect Fox, but it hopefully ushers in a new chapter in U.S.-Mexican relations which I hope will further bind our nations through our shared aspirations in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of

Mexico, members of civil society and the political parties for the dramatic process made over the past several years in bringing about this historic and laudable electoral success.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me first just take one moment to publicly thank Dennis McDonough for the great work he has done on the committee. Dennis is abandoning us to go to the other body and join Senator DASCHLE's staff, an excellent choice if he has to go to the Senate. We would have rather he stayed with us. We just want to publicly thank him for all of his fine work and tell him if he changes his mind we will be happy to take him back, at reduced pay, of course.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution. I think all of us were truly impressed by the changes that have occurred in Mexico and the electoral process. The good news is that democratic change has occurred there peacefully with our neighbor to the south, a country that I have great admiration for and have spent many vacations there.

Mr. Speaker, Mexico needs to go beyond simple political reform. It needs economic reform. It needs to be a country that gives not only democratic opportunity politically, it needs to give democratic economic opportunity to its citizenry as well. So I applaud what happened in Mexico, and I hope that we can work together to give every Mexican an opportunity to benefit from this change.

Additionally, I would only like to say, Mr. Speaker, that while we see this good news of democracy in Mexico and Venezuela, Peru and Haiti, we see democracy losing ground, and we all need to keep focused to make sure that in Venezuela, where democracy has been strong for so long, that it is not lost; in Peru and Haiti, that the troubles there do not lead to a continued deterioration in the democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), who recently led a 44-member delegation to oversee the national election in Mexico. He is my good friend and the chairman of the House Committee on Rules.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to compliment my very good friend, the gentleman from Simi, California (Mr. GALLEGLY), who has done a superb job on the Committee on International Relations, and having authored this resolution is a demonstration of his strong commitment to building ties between the two very important nations.

I would like to say that the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) is somewhat modest on this when he talks about how he has vacationed in Mexico. He has actually worked in Mexico, too, because he is a veteran member of the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Conference; and over the past 2 decades that he and I have been privileged to serve here in the Congress, he has been an active participant in a number of those meetings and has, as I have, observed the tremendous transition which has taken place.

In fact, when he and I were elected to the Congress exactly 20 years ago, we saw a Mexico which in fact was facing very serious economic problems. In fact, I remember in 1982, after the first Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary meeting that I attended, we saw President Lopez Portillo nationalize the banking system and we saw a wide range of other steps which were actually retrograde steps when it comes to the issue of economic reform. Beginning in 1988, we saw the economic reform that my friend is actually saying needs to take place.

What we saw was policies put into place in the Salinas administration, led by the likes of Pedro Aspe, the treasury secretary, and Jaime Serra Puche, the commerce secretary who brought about the kind of reform that we as a nation and the rest of the world are moving towards: privatization, decentralization.

They closed down many state-owned enterprises. They, in fact, saw President Salinas because of his concern for environmental issues close down the largest oil refinery, putting 5,000 people out of work in Mexico City because of his commitment to environmental issues. That took place during the 6-year period of the Salinas administration; and, admittedly, there were many problems. President Salinas continues to face problems there, but his commitment to economic reform which began in 1988 was key to what we saw on July 2.

Now, in 1993 and 1994, my friend the gentleman, from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), who is going to be speaking in just a few minutes, often at 10:39 in the evening, would stand here and talk about the importance of breaking down barriers, tariff barriers, among Canada, the United States and Mexico as we were seeking to get the Congress to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement. We argued that if we were to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement we would see very positive changes and economic improvement. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the fact that that has happened.

We have seen a dramatic improvement in both the standard of living in the United States and in Mexico. In fact, today the Mexican population that is considered to be middle class is larger than the entire Canadian population.

So, sure, there are many poor people in Mexico, and there are many rich people in Mexico. We have often heard that to be the case, but the North American Free Trade Agreement has been key in our quest to see the standard of living improve in Mexico. Much more work remains to be done, but we saw that step take place. We knew, based on the evidence that we have seen in other countries in this hemisphere, Argentina and Chile and the Pacific Rim, South Korea and Taiwan, that focusing on economic reform would in fact bring about an improvement in the issue of self-determination, political rights, human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I will say, having joined with the former Secretary of State, James Baker, and the mayor of San Diego, Susan Golding, in co-leading a delegation of the International Republican Institute, an arm of the National Endowment for Democracy, we saw self-determination finally take hold.

Now we have seen the success of opposition parties in mayoral elections. In fact, 15 of the 16 largest cities in Mexico have opposition party mayors. Governorships throughout the country, of the 32 states, we have seen a number of them with opposition party governors, but for 71 years we continued through a dozen elections to see the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the PRI party, hold control.

In fact, even members within the PRI acknowledged that there were a great deal of problems, to put it mildly, in elections that have taken place in the past. We remember very well in the 1994 election when the computers broke down, the PAN party had actually been ahead, and we saw a change that took place overnight. So that is why the commitment that President Zedillo made to strengthen the FEI, the Federal Electoral Institute, which was designed to have an independent body, independent of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, play a role in encouraging free and fair elections.

We saw it finally work. It is a demonstration of the commitment to economic reform and the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the commitment of President Zedillo and as my friend from California, the author of this resolution, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) made it very, very clear, the success of the National Action Party, the party which has embraced the policies which I believe are key to bringing about the kind of success economically that we have seen in the United States and around the world.

I am happy to see the PRI party embrace many of those PAN party positions during the 1990s, but now the people of Mexico are going to get the real thing with Vicente Fox as its president.

It is a coalition that has been put together, but the sense of optimism that

I saw in Mexico was overwhelming. On election night, at about 1:00 in the morning, I joined one of the members of our delegation, M. Delal Baer, who is one of the most prominent Mexicologists at the Center for Strategic International Studies here in Washington, and to stand at what is known as the Plaza, which is the Angel of Independence, when Vicente Fox came out we stood among about 50,000 or 60,000 people, the level of optimism, the confidence that the people had was incredible.

I will say in closing that I will never forget being in a little tiny town called Metepec, which is in the hills above Puebla and Atlisco, when at 6:00 we counted the ballots, which was in a rural area where in fact the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the PRI party, was supposed to be very strong because of a lot of things that they had done to promote incumbency there, and a young 18-year-old woman who was the representative of the National Action Party stood there, and we witnessed the counting of the ballots in this casilla, which was a voting station. The vote was 210 votes for Vicente Fox and 106 for the PRI party candidate, Francisco Labastida.

What we saw was a level of excitement because this woman said to me, my family for years, as members of the National Action Party, we have been working to bring this day about, and it has finally happened. That is why I think it is very important for us as a Nation to say that the already strong relationship between Mexico and the United States will, I believe, be strengthened even more with the election of Vicente Fox. I believe that we have a tremendous potential for the future.

I congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) for joining in as a cosponsor of this resolution. I want to again congratulate my friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), who for years and years and years has pursued improvements in Mexico; and I was pleased when he stood in this aisle in 1987 and asked me to join with him as a cosponsors of legislation to eliminate those tariff barriers, and we on July 2 saw that ultimate victory because of the economic reform.

□ 2245

So I congratulate the people of Mexico and, of course, my colleagues who moved ahead with this.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, a special thanks, of course, to everyone that is here to speak to this issue and to this resolution. I especially appreciate the words from the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), looking forward to even a better relationship with Mexico and what this election represents.

A special thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and their staffs for the privilege they have provided me to work with them on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate our neighbor, Mexico, for its peaceful, transparent federal election that took place on July 2, 2000. The Mexican citizens, through their participation and dedication to electoral reform in numbers that exceed those by our own voters in our elections, must be credited for assuring that this election was in fact transparent, fair, open, and in the final analysis a democratic success.

The United States and Mexico, joined by a common border, share mutual interests and concerns that make the fate of one country dependent on the other. The City of San Antonio, my city, with its proximity to Mexico, has always had a unique bond with Mexico due to its shared history.

The mutual responsibilities of Mexico and the United States make this a historic election important to our economies and national security. Today, with this election, Mexico will enter a new era that will have consequences for its international relationship, not only with the United States but with the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I know that with President-elect Fox's leadership, as demonstrated during his campaign for office, he will reach out and embrace the different factions in Mexico, joining the country in its united cause to ensure that Mexico's dedication to democracy will not be compromised.

Finally, I would like to congratulate President Zedillo and President-elect Vicente Fox for their commitment to a peaceful transition of power.

In closing, I would hope what this election represents is a fruition of great effort by many of the greatest leaders in Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on reflection, when my grandparents came over in 1908 seeking a certain dream that they felt they could only achieve under the system in the United States, that after this election and what it brings that it will mean that individuals in Mexico will achieve the same dream that my grandparents sought in the United States, but rather than within their own borders of Mexico.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in acknowledging this historic moment for our neighbors and friends to the south. We know that just 3 weeks ago Vicente Fox achieved a monumental victory in assuring his ascension to the Mexican Presidency.

I had a chance to meet Mr. Fox during the campaign. I spent several

weeks in Mexico watching the election. I saw the hope and the optimism and the excitement engendered by his candidacy; a hope and optimism which I think bodes well for U.S.-Mexico relations.

This election represents also the example of leadership that was shown by President Ernesto Zedillo. He embarked on a reform policy from the beginning of his own 6-year presidency. He stayed committed to it and there was widespread confidence in the fairness of the election throughout Mexico.

On election night, President Zedillo recognized the legitimacy of Mr. Fox's victory and guaranteed the peaceful transfer of power. That will be his most enduring legacy. That legacy, the devotion to democracy, is a legacy to hold sacred the voices of Mexico's people.

Mr. Speaker, the district I represent, California's 50th, part of the City of San Diego, lies directly on the U.S.-Mexico border and my community shares close ties with Mexico. From our homes we look south and see the Mexican hills. We share ocean and river water, businesses and culture. The greatest number of legal cross-border travelers between any two nations in the world pass through my district.

But another highly visible feature of my district is a border fence, a symbolic scar that separates our businesses, our friendships, our families. On each side of that fence is tension, mistrust and violence. At this border we have great problems to solve and great challenges to meet: Immigration problems, environmental problems, infrastructure problems.

But Mr. Fox has already boldly spoken out on these issues. He sees a Mexican economy that will provide 1.5 million new jobs a year and a national campaign to raise standards of living and increase access to health care and education. He sees the breakup of a corrupt bureaucracy. He has promised to deal with human rights concerns in Chiapas. All these steps Mr. Fox rightly knows will reduce the pressure of immigration on our border.

Mr. Speaker, many San Diegans are as excited about the prospects of this new Mexico and this new border as are the Mexican people themselves. I believe now is the time to tear down the barriers, to embrace the new President and the Mexican president. Rather than building walls, it is time to build bridges and encourage Mexico's new and successful commitment to democracy. We can gain so much from this cooperative effort. We have already begun.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the new President, "Senor Presidente, si, se puede."

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE).

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for yielding me this time,

and I thank him for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) for their efforts as well.

Mr. Speaker, this is a historic moment that we are here on the floor with this resolution, and I rise in strong support of it, a resolution to congratulate the people of Mexico for their historic democratic election which was held just a few days ago.

As a student of U.S.-Mexico relations, I know that history has not always been kind to Mexico. From the Spanish conquest of Mexico to the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz, Mexico was for too long under the thumb of oppressive governments. The Mexican revolution broke those chains of oppression, but it threw Mexico into years of civil war and infighting. It was not until the PRI consolidated power 70-plus years ago that peace really returned to Mexico.

During the past two PRI presidencies, we began to see real change occurring in Mexico. A traditionally closed and protected economy began to open up to the world. United States and Mexico, sensing an historic opportunity, locked these reforms into place with the conclusion of the North American Free Trade Agreement. But NAFTA was more than a simple trade agreement between our three countries. It symbolized a new sense of partnership between the United States and Mexico. It made concrete what we all know to be true, that like it or not, the United States and Mexico share a common future.

Economically, I think NAFTA has been a huge success. It helps to bring investor confidence to Mexico. It has enabled both the United States and Mexico to specialize its production and it has led to increased exports on both sides of the border. But the true success of NAFTA lies much deeper than that.

As I have always said, with economic reforms, political reforms will follow. And there is no greater testament to this fundamental truth than the recent democratic elections in Mexico.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Mexican people for the bold and visionary steps that they have taken in recent years and very dramatically with this election. This month's election is the culmination of slow political change in Mexico. And so we congratulate President-elect Vicente Fox and his party, the National Action Party.

But we congratulate more than an individual and more than a political party. We congratulate the people of Mexico, for this is a moment that Mexico should be justly proud. It is not the end; it is the beginning of a new era, a new era of openness, of democracy, of prosperity for the Mexican people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to extend my best wishes and sincere congratulations to the people of Mexico. As the Mexicans themselves might say it, "En hora buena. Muchas Felicidades." Well done, congratulations.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), who is a valuable member of the committee.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 544 congratulating Vicente Fox and the Mexican people for this very successful election. Vicente Fox as a candidate was in the Capitol some months ago and I talked to him about Chiapas, the very poor state in southern Mexico, talking about rural development, about health care in Chiapas, and especially about the military occupation from the central government of many of the rural areas of Chiapas.

Once a year a Cleveland doctor friend of mine, who practices in the inner-city clinic in Cleveland, goes to Chiapas for a month and practices in a rural Catholic hospital. She has worked on several patients with tuberculosis. She tells me that in order to treat tuberculosis, someone needs to visit a doctor or a health clinic, or the health worker needs to go to the person's home and take medicine there every day for 6 months.

The problem in Chiapas is that patients simply cannot get to and from a clinic, nor can the workers in the clinics get to the patients' homes, because of the check points and the military occupation in southern Mexico in Chiapas. President Fox, back then Candidate Fox, pledged to me and several others publicly and privately that one of the first things he would do is negotiate with those indigenous peoples to get the military out of southern Mexico to get the military occupation out of Chiapas.

Mr. Speaker, that is a very important issue for the health of many of those people in rural southern Mexico, many of the indigenous people. I hope he follows up on that promise.

Second, very quickly, Mr. Speaker, President Fox talked during his campaign, and since, about beginning to put together if you will a European Union style deepening of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Many of us have mixed feelings about the success of NAFTA. I feel it has not been a success at all, unlike the previous speaker. Nonetheless, if he is going to pursue an EU-style, European Union style deepening of NAFTA, customs issues, currency issues, things like that. It is important that he also with that, as the Europeans have done,

enact strong labor standards, strong environmental standards, strong food safety, truck safety standards; all the issues that will raise Mexicans up, not bring American food safety and environmental standards down. That will help build a prosperous middle class in Mexico so we can have real trade between the two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Fox's election and applaud the Mexican people for their success. I ask Mr. Fox and again urge him in terms of the indigenous people in Chiapas and the military occupation and the EU-style deepening of NAFTA.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), also a member of the committee.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I join strongly with our colleagues in urging the passage of House Resolution 544 which congratulates the people and the government of Mexico for their tremendous success of their democratic elections held earlier this month.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly would want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of our Committee on International Relations, and also the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking Democratic member, for their leadership and support of this legislation.

I also want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, my good friend, for introducing this legislation, and thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking Democratic member of the subcommittee, for bringing the measure to the floor. I am proud to join them as a cosponsor and strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has had a long close and special relationship with Mexico, our nearest neighbor to the south. I, and many of our colleagues, have traveled to that Nation to review issues of mutual concern. That is why we take great pride in Mexico's historic exercise of democracy this month, which saw national elections ending the three-quarters of a century domination and one-party rule by the PRI, or the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

In what is seen as the fairest and most competitive presidential elections ever in Mexico, two-thirds of eligible voters, over 35 million strong, participated.

□ 2300

According to former President Jimmy Carter, who observed the elections from Mexico City, "The Carter Center has been monitoring elections down here for more than 12 years and this one was almost perfect."

Mr. Speaker, of Mexico's 113,423 voting stations, it is reported that 99.99 percent functioned normally and without fraud, a country with a population of some 85 million plus. I say what a great example for a country with democratic institutions in place.

Mr. Speaker, there is an extraordinary accomplishment, a sign of political maturity and commitment to democracy, for which the good people of Mexico should be given tremendous credit.

Mr. Speaker, at the eve of such dynamic changes with Mexico's election process, I also want to especially note that Mexico's newly elected leaders to take up more seriously the really needed social and economic issues of the needs of millions of indigenous Indians who live in that country. I am certain that Mexico's first president and leader who liberated Mexico from Maximilian rule and, for that matter, from European colonialism, the irony of all of this, Mr. Speaker, is that Benito Juarez, the George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in Mexico combined, in my humble opinion, was a pure-blooded indigenous Indian who was orphaned at a tender age and educated by Catholic priests, even had personal communications with Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

One of the things I want to share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, when President Lincoln was assassinated, Mexico was the only country that President Juarez ordered flags half mast to pay honor and homage to President Abraham Lincoln. That is the caliber of this gentleman's leadership. I am very touched by the fact that I am sure that Benito Juarez would have been very happy with the results of the election.

But I want to note and to also send this message: Our friends in Mexico, do not neglect the needs of the indigenous Indians, the millions of indigenous Indians in that country.

Mr. Speaker, as we depart the 20th century, outgoing President Ernesto Zedillo should be recognized and commended for the electoral reforms he instituted that made possible free and fair elections in Mexico, which is truly an admirable legacy.

As we enter the 21st century, the United States should strive to support the President-elect Vicente Fox and his visionary agenda for Mexico to overhaul government and stop corruption, improve employment and strengthen education, and to vigorously combat the international drug trade.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Mexico have spoken, and they clearly want change from the corrupt practices of past administrations. This stunning example of democracy by one of our two closest neighbors are very special at a time when democratic institutions seem threatened in other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me this time. Mr. Speaker, I thank the proponents of this legislation.

Texas has a long-standing relationship, historical relationship with the Nation of Mexico. Let me just congratulate this being the first transition of government in 71 years.

Mr. Fox's election completes Mexico's transition to a total multiparty democratic system. I think the applause goes to the American people and to the Mexican people for their continued friendship, but particularly those who came out to vote in this most recent election where estimates say that more than or almost two-thirds of all eligible voters participated in what domestic and international election observers have declared to be the fairest and most transparent national election in Mexico's history.

I believe this is the road to a longer lasting and continued friendship between the United States and Mexico. As a Representative from Houston, let me say that we have continued and over the years continued to improve and to applaud the relationship that we have had with Mexico City, doing business, exchange of ideas, exchange of educational opportunities, exchange of our legislators. So there is a long-standing friendship, even of my local community.

I look forward to this new democracy being part of Mexico's increased and enhanced prosperity. I applaud the elections, and I wish them the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution congratulating the people of the United Mexican States on their democratic elections held on July 2, 2000. These recent events are truly historical and will not only have an impact on Mexico's citizens, but also the impact of this change will be experienced the world over.

Throughout our history, the United States and Mexico have shared a unique history and continue to share a wide range of interest. In fact, my home state of Texas was once a part Mexico. I have often stated that America is not only a country of laws but also a country of immigrants.

The 18th Congressional District of Texas, which I am proud to represent, has a large number of people who are immigrants from Mexico or are descendants of past Mexican immigrants. I am certain that a number of my colleagues have large Hispanic populations in their home districts as well. With this in mind, it is easy to understand that many of our nation's Hispanic people still have strong cultural and family ties to Mexico.

The bond between family members is not destroyed because one family member lives in

another country. For this reason, we must take care to maintain a close and positive relationship between the United States of America and Mexico.

Such a relationship is important to the people of both nations. A democratic and prosperous Mexico is important to the security of the United States.

A brief historical reflection helps us to better appreciate the significance of these recent elections. Vicente Fox represents the first transition in power at the presidential level in Mexico in 71 years from the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. Mr. Fox's election completes Mexico's transition to a total multi-party democratic system.

After a long period of questionable elections, estimates say that two-thirds of all eligible voters participated in what domestic and international election observers have declared to be the fairest and most transparent national election in Mexico's history. As the world's leading democratic system of government, the United States of America should not fail to recognize the magnitude of these July 2nd elections.

Mr. Speaker, because of the important democratic principles that these recent elections represent, principles that serve as the foundation for the American government, I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of House Resolution 544, congratulating the people of the United Mexican States on their success.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 544 commending the people of Mexico on their recent elections and congratulating President-elect Vicente Fox on winning a historical election as president of Mexico, an important economic ally of the United States.

It has been noted that, in a democracy, more important than the first election, is the first transition of power from one party to another. It is on this point that the people of Mexico proudly take their place alongside the world's great democracies.

Everyone deserves great credit for this election. As it should be in a democracy, it is the people of Mexico who deserve the greatest credit. They voted in large numbers, unafraid of what change might mean to them and their country.

When it was apparent that a candidate who was not part of the traditional power structure had won the election, Mexicans across the country celebrated; and Mexicans who supported the incumbent party did not riot nor try to undo the vast change wrought by the democratic election. While their revolution was fought from 1910–1920, their long-term democracy was sealed in the first election of the 21st Century.

President-elect Vicente Fox deserves great credit for running a great campaign, a long and steady campaign. He built a coalition composed of people representing various philosophies to include as many points of view as possible in his campaign.

Finally, Ernesto Zedillo, Mexico's sitting president, deserves great credit for accepting the country's decision without dissent. It was due in no small part to Zedillo's steady hand, cool head, and vow to make the transition between political parties go smoothly that led

members of his party and the government to accept their defeat with grace and dignity.

The United States and Mexico have a long and storied history. As proud countries which share an international border, we have had more than our share of disagreements as well as victories. Along with that border comes an entire culture unto itself, on both sides of the border, that consists of traditions, unique cuisine, Old West legends and a language that is a mixture of Spanish and English.

In the past decade, we have strengthened our relationship with Mexico by virtue of NAFTA and other trade policies. It is my hope that in this decade and this century, the United States and Mexico will further cement that relationship with closer work on a host of economic and law-enforcement policies. President-elect Fox and the people of Mexico have a great deal to work through in the next year.

I have invited President-elect Fox to the United States to meet with me and other Hispanic Members of Congress to talk about issues that affect both our countries, but I know he has a great deal to do first. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives today offers our congratulations to Mexico and President-elect Fox. Adelante.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 544.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4697) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to ensure that United States assistance programs promote good governance by assisting other countries to combat corruption throughout society and to promote transparency and increased accountability for all levels of government and throughout the private sector, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4697

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "International Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Widespread corruption endangers the stability and security of societies, under-

mines democracy, and jeopardizes the social, political, and economic development of a society.

(2) Corruption facilitates criminal activities, such as money laundering, hinders economic development, inflates the costs of doing business, and undermines the legitimacy of the government and public trust.

(3) In January 1997 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution urging member states to carefully consider the problems posed by the international aspects of corrupt practices and to study appropriate legislative and regulatory measures to ensure the transparency and integrity of financial systems.

(4) The United States was the first country to criminalize international bribery through the enactment of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 and United States leadership was instrumental in the passage of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

(5) The Vice President, at the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption in 1999, declared corruption to be a direct threat to the rule of law and the Secretary of State declared corruption to be a matter of profound political and social consequence for our efforts to strengthen democratic governments.

(6) The Secretary of State, at the Inter-American Development Bank's annual meeting in March 2000, declared that despite certain economic achievements, democracy is being threatened as citizens grow weary of the corruption and favoritism of their official institutions and that efforts must be made to improve governance if respect for democratic institutions is to be regained.

(7) In May 1996 the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption requiring countries to provide various forms of international cooperation and assistance to facilitate the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of acts of corruption.

(8) Independent media, committed to fighting corruption and trained in investigative journalism techniques, can both educate the public on the costs of corruption and act as a deterrent against corrupt officials.

(9) Competent and independent judiciary, founded on a merit-based selection process and trained to enforce contracts and protect property rights, is critical for creating a predictable and consistent environment for transparency in legal procedures.

(10) Independent and accountable legislatures, responsive political parties, and transparent electoral processes, in conjunction with professional, accountable, and transparent financial management and procurement policies and procedures, are essential to the promotion of good governance and to the combat of corruption.

(11) Transparent business frameworks, including modern commercial codes and intellectual property rights, are vital to enhancing economic growth and decreasing corruption at all levels of society.

(12) The United States should attempt to improve accountability in foreign countries, including by—

(A) promoting transparency and accountability through support for independent media, promoting financial disclosure by public officials, political parties, and candidates for public office, open budgeting processes, adequate and effective internal control systems, suitable financial management systems, and financial and compliance reporting;